GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:537
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Centre for Storage of Duplicate Samples of Plant Genetic Resources
Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a second secure centre to store duplicate samples of plant genetic resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any difference between the proposed second secure centre and Doomsday Vault maintained by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Chang-La near Leh and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the second secure centre is likely to be set up and operational?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 537 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11/04/2017 REGARDING
"CENTRE FOR STORAGE OF DUPLICATE
SAMPLES OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES"

(a) to (c): A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between ICAR and Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) on August 23, 2011 to expand/develop a National Permafrost Facility at Chang-La, Leh, Jammu and Kashmir. Accordingly, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) initiated an experiment to study the feasibility of conservation of 19 major food crops in 2011 for evaluating the seed germination of material stored during 2011-2016 under Chang-La conditions. Every year the seed viability data is being recorded, analyzed and monitored. The results are encouraging and this facility can be used to store safety duplicates of plant genetic resources at the National Permafrost Facility at Chang-La.

(d) At present there is no proposal to open second secure centre for conservation of germplasm. However, the international facility viz., Svalbard Global Seed Vault established at Norwegian Island of Spitsbergen in remote Arctic Svalbard archipelago is operational and some of the germplasm has been stored as safety duplicate under this facility.

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